

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SAIGON 01125 01 OF 02 281159Z

45

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 DPW-01 IO-14 ACDA-19 NIC-01

DRC-01 /113 W

----- 109147

O P 281025Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1118

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

USDEL JEC PARIS PRIORITY

USLO PEKING PRIORITY

USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 601

AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY

CINCPAC PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI PRIORITY

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 SAIGON 01125

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV PINT VS

SUB: GVN FOREIGN MINISTER'S PRESS CONFERENCE, JANUARY 26

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: SAIGON 1073

1. FOLLOWING IS UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF FOREIGN MINISTER
BAC'S RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS AT HIS JANUARY 26 PRESS CONFERENCE
(REFTEL) BASED ON TAPE RECORDING:

2. QUESTION: IN YOUR MEETINGS ON THE PARACELS, PARTICULARLY LAST
WEEKEND, YOU HELD TWO SUCCESSIVE MEETINGS WITH AMBASSADOR MARTIN.
DID YOU, SIR, REQUEST THAT THE US SEVENTH FLEET HELP THE GVN
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 SAIGON 01125 01 OF 02 281159Z

IN RESCUE OPERATIONS OR DID YOU PASS ON A REQUEST TO AMBASSADOR

MARTIN FROM THE SVN COMMANDER IN DANANG REQUESTING URGENT HELP FROM THE SEVENTH FLEET TO RESCUE 121 MISSING MEN? AND, IF SO, WAS THIS REQUEST REJECTED?

3. ANSWER: BEFORE ANSWERING YOUR QUESTION CONCERNING THE PARACELS AND SPRATLY ARCHIPELAGOES, I THINK IT NECESSARY TO STATE THE FOLLOWING THREE IMPORTANT POINTS.

4. IN THE FIRST PLACE, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RVN SOLEMNLY REAFFIRMS THAT THE PARACELS AND SPRATLY ARCHIPELAGOES FORM AN INDIVISIBLE PART OF THE TERRITORY OF THE RVN. THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE RVN OVER THOSE TWO ARCHIPELAGOES IS UNDENIABLE AND IS ABUNDANTLY SUPPORTED BY HISTORICAL, GEOGRAPHICAL, JURIDICAL AND FACUTAL EVIDENCE. I BELIEVE THAT EVERY VIETNAMESE REGARDLESS OF ORIGIN, RELIGION, OPINION OR AGE SHARES THIS VIEW. THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE RVN ARE DETERMINED NEVER TO YIELD TO VIOLENCE AND NOT TO RENOUNCE THEIR SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE ARCHIPELAGOES OF SPARTLY AND PARACELS. THAT IS MY FIRST POINT.

5. SECONDLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH HER POLICY OF PEACE, THE RVN HAS USED AND IS STILL USING ALL PEACEFUL MEANS TO PROMOTE HER JUST CAUSE AND TO PROTECT HER LEGITIMATE RIGHTS. THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM HAS APPEALED TO THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL AS WELL AS THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THAT ORGANIZATION, IN ORDER TO HAVE THEIR OPINION. WE ARE CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF BRINGING THE CASE BEFORE THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE AND WE HAVE NOTIFIED THE PARTICIPANTS TO THE FINAL ACT OF THE PARIS CONFERENCE ON VIETNAM IN ORDER TO ASK THEM TO CONFER ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 4 OF THE FINAL ACT IN ORDER TO CONSERVE AND PRESERVE THE NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 1 OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT ON VIETNAM.

6. WE HAVE ALSO CONSULTED THE REGIONAL ORGANIZATION, THE SOUTHEAST ASIA TREATY ORGANIZATION, IN ORDER TO LET ITS MEMBERS CONSULT WITH ONE ANOTHER ON MEASURES TO BE TAKEN.

7. BESIDES, I WOULD LIKE TO ANNOUNCE THIS IMPORTANT INFORMATION: THE PRESIDENT OF THE RVN, HIS EXCELLENCY NGUYEN VAN THIEU, HAS SENT A LETTER TO THE HEADS OF STATES WHICH HAVE RECOGNIZED THE RVN, INCLUDING US PRESIDENT NIXON, TO PRESENT THE JUST POSITION OF UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 SAIGON 01125 01 OF 02 281159Z

THE RVN AND TO ASK THEM TO RAISE THEIR VOICES FOR THE SAKE OF PEACE AND JUSTICE. NATURALLY, I CANNOT REVEAL THE CONTENT OF THE LETTERS OUT OF RESPECT FOR THE HEADS OF STATES TO WHOM THEY WERE SENT.

8. THIRDLY, IN THIS INCIDENT, THE RVN DID NOT SEEK WAR WITH CHINA, BUT RATHER IT IS THE PRC THAT SOUGHT WAR WITH THE RVN. THE RVN WAS ONLY EXERCISING THE RIGHT TO SELF-DEFENSE AND CARRYING OUT

HER DUTY OF DEFENDING HER NATIONAL TERRITORY IN THE FACE OF THE ARMED AGGRESSION BY COMMUNIST CHINA. IN THIS CASE COMMUNIST CHINA INITIATED THE ACTION, AND AS THE AGGRESSOR MUST BEAR FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONSEQUENCES. AS I HAVE SAID, IN THIS PARACELS AFFAIR THE RVN HAS USED AND IS STILL USING ALL PEACEFUL MEANS TO PROMOTE HER JUST CAUSE AND TO PROTECT HER LEGITIMATE RIGHTS. ON THE OTHER HAND THE RVN IS RELYING PRIMARILY ON HER OWN FORCES TO PROTECT HER NATIONAL TERRITORY. THEREFORE, I MAY REAFFIRM THAT DURING ALL THE MEETINGS THAT I HAD WITH AMEMBASSADOR MARTIN, I NEVER ASKED THE US SEVENTH FLEET OR ANY OTHER US FORCES TO ASSIST US IN THIS CASE. THEREFORE, ALL THE RUMORS AND SPECULATION THAT WE ASKED THE US SEVENTH FLEET TO COME TO OUR HELP AND THAT THE REQUESTS WERE REJECTED ARE PURE FABRICATION AND ARE GROUNDLESS.

9. QUESTION: IN THE FACE OF THE COMMON ENEMY OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE, DOES THE GVN INTEND TO EXPLORE (THE QUESTION WITH) NVN AND THE VC OR TO APPEAL TO NVN AND THE VC TO COOPERATE?

10. ANSWER: IN MY PROPOSAL TO MEET WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF NVN I SUGGESTED THAT THE TWO SIDES DISCUSS MEASURES TO DEFEND THE LONG-RANGE INTERESTS OF THE NATION. AMONG THOSE MEASURES NATURALLY THERE IS THE DEFENSE OF THE INTEGRITY OF THE NATIONAL TERRITORY. THE ATTITUDE OF NVN UP TO NOW CONCERNING THE AGGRESSION OF COMMUNIST CHINA AGAINST THE PARACEL AND SPRATLYMX ARE SAYING ONLY GENERALTIES; I THINK THE COMMUNISTS OF THE OTHER SIDE SHOULD ANSWER TWO SPECIFIC QUESTION: ONE, DO THEY THINK THAT THE PARACELS AND SPRATLYS ARE A PORTION OF THE NATIONAL TERRITORY OF VIETNAM? SECONDLY, DO THEY APPROVE OR DO THEY CONDEMN THE ARMED AGGRESSION OF COMMUNIST CHINA AGAINST THAT PORTION OF THE TERRITORY OF VIETNAM? WHEN AND AFTER THE COMMUNIST CLEARLY STATE THEIR VIEWS ON THOSE TWO QUESTIONS WE CAN KNOW WHAT THEY CAN DO TO COOPERATE TO DEFEND THE NATIONAL TERRITORY OF VN.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 SAIGON 01125 01 OF 02 281159Z

QQM YOU ARE CERTAINLY AWARE THAT IN THE LA CELLE ST. CLOUD MEETINGS THE CHIEF OF THE VIETNAM DELEGATION HAS PROPOSED TO THE OTHER SIDE TO JOINTLY CONDEMN THE AGGRESSION OF COMMUNIST CHINA. THE ATTITUDE OF THE OTHER SIDE WAS QUITE NEGATIVE.
MARTIN

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SAIGON 01125 02 OF 02 281220Z

41

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 INRE-00 DPW-01 IO-14 ACDA-19

NIC-01 DRC-01 /113 W

----- 109305

O P 281025Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1119

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

USDEL JEC PARIS PRIORITY

USLO PEKING PRIORITY

USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 602

AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY

CINCPAC PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI PRIORITY

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 SAIGON 01125

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

12. QUESTION: SINCE YOU SAY THAT THE CLAIM OF THE RVN TO THE PARACELS AND SPRATLYS IS INDISPUTABLE, DO YOU THEREFORE CONSIDER THE CHINESE ACTION ON THE PARACELS TO SIMPLY BE A WANTON ACT OF WAR OR DO YOU THINK CHINA HAS SOME OTHER MOTIVE?

13. ANSWER: I HAVE SAID THAT THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CONSIDERS THE TWO ARCHIPELAGOS AS AN INHERENT PART OF THE NATIONAL TERRITORY OF VIETNAM. THEREFORE, THE ACTION BY COMMUNIST CHINA CONSTITUTES A VIOLATION OF THE NATIONAL TERRITORY OF THE SEPARATE STATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM AND THIS IMPLIES JURIDICAL CONSEQUENCES.

14. QUESTION: MR. MINISTER, COULD YOU KINDLY TELL US WHAT THE REACTIONS IN THE WORLD HAVE BEEN TO THE CHINESE COMMUNIST
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 SAIGON 01125 02 OF 02 281220Z

AGGRESSION AGAINST THE PARACELS ARCHIPELAGO?

15. ANSWER: I THINK THAT THE FACT THAT A GREAT POWER USES FORCE

TO VIOLATE THE NATIONAL TERRITORY OF A SMALL NATION NATURALLY HAS BROUGHT ANGER ALL OVER THE WORLD. I HAVE RECEIVED DAILY INFORMATION FROM ABROAD INFORMING ME OF THE INDIGNATION WITHIN WORLD PUBLIC OPINION. VARIOUS POLITICAL PERSONALITIES FROM EVERYWHERE HAVE RAISED THEIR VOICES AGAINST THIS BLATANT ACT OF AGGRESSION BY COMMUNIST CHINA.

16. QUESTION: IN YOUR PROPOSAL TO MEET THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF NVN I WANT TO ASK THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS: HAS THAT PROPOSAL BEEN BROUGHT TO THE NOTICE OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF NVN, AND, SECONDLY, HAVE YOU PROPOSED ANY PLACE OR DATE FOR THE MEETING?

17. ANSWER: CONTRARY TO ARTICLE 15C ON THE PARIS AGREEMENT, HANOI HAS NOT STARTED NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM IN ORDER TO BRING ABOUT THE BUILDING OF NORMAL RELATIONS WITH THE RVN. THEREFORE, I ASK TODAY AT THIS PRESS CONFERENCE (THAT YOU MAKE) NOTE FOR THE FIRST TIME OF MY SUGGESTIONS; AS TO THE PLACE OF THE MEETING, I THINK THAT IS A QUESTION EASILY SOLVED BECAUSE THE TWO SIDES COULD EASILY FIND A MEETING PLACE CONVENIENT FOR BOTH OF THEM.

18. QUESTION: WHAT HAS BEEN THE REACTION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE USA AFTER THE AGGRESSION OF COMMUNIST CHINA?

19. ANSWER: SINCE THE US IS A FRIENDLY NATION OF VIETNAM AS WELL AS AN ALLY, THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM HAS INFORMED THE GOVERNMENT OF THE US OF ALL EVENTS IN THE PARACELS AREA SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THIS AFFAIR. THE US SECRETARY OF STATE, DR. KISSINGER IN A PRESS CONFERENCE TWO DAYS AGO RAISED HIS VOICE TO PROTEST AGAINST THE USE OF FORCE TO SOLVE ALL TERRITORIAL DISPUTES. IN THE DIPLOMATIC FIELD WE ARE IN REGULAR CONSULTATION WITH THE DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE OF THE US HERE. I THINK THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE USA WILL BE SYMPATHETIC TO THE DEFENSE OF OUR NATIONAL RIGHTS THROUGH PEACEFUL MEANS.

20. QUESTION: PEKING HAS MADE REFERENCE TO THE RELEASE OF PRISONERS CAPTURED ON THE PARACEL ISLANDS "AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME." DID THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RVN DO ANYTHING OR ESTABLISH UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 SAIGON 01125 02 OF 02 281220Z

ANY CONTACT TO ASSURE THE RETURN OF THESE PRISONERS?

21. ANSWER: SINCE THE BEGINNING THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM ALSO HAD PAID CLOSE ATTENTION TO THE FATE OF THOSE MEN WOUNDED OR ILLEGALLY CAPTURED DUE TO THE ATTACK BY COMMUNIST CHINA ON THE HOANG SA (PARACELS) ARCHIPELAGO. IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE INCIDENT, WE BROUGHT THE MATTER TO THE ATTENTION OF THE RED CROSS COMMITTEE AND ASKED THIS COMMITTEE TO DEMAND THAT THOSE WHO WERE ILLEGALLY CAPTURED BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY. I MUST STATE CLEARLY THE POSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF

VIETNAM: THOSE MEN CAPTURED WERE CAPTURED ILLEGALLY. THEREFORE, THEY MUST BE SET FREE IMMEDIATELY AND THERE IS NO QUESTION OF "LATER RELEASE AT THE PROPER TIME."

22. QUESTION: IS RED CHINA'S AGGRESSION A SCHEME OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISTS? SECONDLY, DO YOU BELIEVE THAT RED CHINA OUGHT TO HAND OVER THE PARACELS TO THE VIET CONG? THIRD, WHAT WILL BE THE FATE OF THE 121 PRISONERS CAPTURED BY RED CHINA? FOURTH: IS THE PARIS AGREEMENT OF ANY USEFULNESS FOR THE RVN IN THIS AFFAIR?

23. ANSWER: IN ANSWER TO YOUR FIRST QUESTION. TALKING ABOUT INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISM AS ONE ORGANIZATION, AS A MONOLITHIC ORGANIZATION, IS NO LONGER ACCURATE, BECAUSE THEIR INTERNAL DISPUTES HAVE DIVIDED THEM. I WOULD RATHER THINK THAT THIS NEW AGGRESSION BY COMMUNIST CHINA WOULD BE A PART OF THAT TRADITIONAL DRIVE FOR EXPANSION BY THE PEKING AUTHORITIES.

24. FOR THE SECOND QUESTION AS TO WHETHER COMMUNIST CHINA WILL RETURN THE HOANG SA ARCHIPELAGO TO THE VIET CONG, I WILL GIVE A VERY SHORT ANSWER: SINCE THE HOANG SA OR PARACEL ARCHIPELAGO DOES NOT BELONG TO THE NATIONAL TERRITORY OF COMMUNIST CHINA, IT HAS NO AUTHORITY TO GIVE IT TO ANYBODY.

25. TO ANSWER THE LAST PART OF THE LAST QUESTION, I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THAT DESPITE THE NEGATIVE ATTITUDE OF THE COMMUNISTS AND TO FURTHER CONSTRUCTIVE POLICIES OF THE GVN, WE ARE STILL MAKING EFFORTS IN ORDER TO REACH A PEACEFUL SOLUTION FOR THE PROBLEM OF VIET. THAT IS WHY I HAVE PROPOSED TO MEET WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF NVN. IF A MEETING WITH THE NORTH VIETNAMESE FOREIGN MINISTER
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 SAIGON 01125 02 OF 02 281220Z

TAKES PLACE, I MAY TRY TO DISCUSS WITH HIM NEW IDEAS. AS A MATTER OF FACT, IT JUST CROSSED MY MIND THAT NORTH VIETNAM AND SOUTH VIETNAM MIGHT DISCUSS A NON-AGGRESSION PACT ALONG THE LINE OF THE NON-AGGRESSION PACT RECENTLY SUGGESTED BY PRESIDENT PARK CHUNG-HEE FOR KOREA. I AM JUST THINKING OUT LOUD.
MARTIN

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POW, WELFARE & WHEREABOUTS, ISLAND CLAIMS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SAIGON01125
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740111/aaaaakhb.tel
Line Count: 321
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: SAIGON 1073
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 FEB 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 FEB 2002 by elbezefj>; APPROVED <26 NOV 2002 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GVN FOREIGN MINISTER'S PRESS CONFERENCE, JANUARY 26 CINCPAC FOR POLAD
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, VS, CH, (KOSH, GERALD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005